



TOWN OF LOS GATOS



S P R I N G 2 0 0 9

O U R C O M M U N I T Y N E W S L E T T E R

Town of Los Gatos Guiding Principles

- Small Town Service
- Community Stewardship
- Future Focus

State of the Town

The following is an abridged version of the State of the Town address.

As your Mayor, it's my honor and pleasure to present the State of the Town to you this evening. But first, I would like to introduce my fellow Council members: Vice Mayor Diane McNutt, Council member Joe Pirzynski, Council member Barbara Spector, and newly elected Council member Steve Rice.

It's the experience of this Council, professionalism and expertise of our staff, and the volunteerism and passion of hundreds of residents that has enabled Los Gatos to accomplish so much over the last few years. This "It takes a Town" mentality has made our Town what it is today. It will get us through the economic uncertainties we are now facing and will ultimately result in an even better Los Gatos. And that gives me a perfect segue way into tonight's State of the Town Address, which will reflect on our past, present, and future successes.

Where We Were

Four years ago I said, "The Town Council and I want to work with you to identify the community's priorities and create a vision for Los Gatos." We surveyed the community, identified the priorities and have worked to make that vision a reality.

Public safety, library and youth services were identified as priorities and the Town has made great strides in each of those areas and continues to do so. We purchased the Verizon property on Los Gatos Boulevard and began construction to create a new Police Operations Building — all without raising taxes.

We held numerous public meetings to discuss the concept of a new Library, considered multiple recommendations, approved a project budget, and contracted with architects to design the new building.

We created a 17-member Youth Commission and developed Youth Party Guidelines. In addition, as a result of creating the Alive and Loving Life

initiative, an Under 21 Club and a music concert series took shape followed by a Cops and Kids program designed to help keep our kids safe. This program won state wide recognition and a Helen Putnam award from the League of California Cities.

We replaced 100 year old water pipes under Main Street and Santa Cruz Avenue and repaved both streets. And, we came up with new way-finding signage, expanded the holiday valet service, created an additional parking lot, and started the first Community Bus program in the county.

Four years ago, we said that there is a golden opportunity waiting for us, just around the corner. We started Community Unity. Due to the hard work and passion of approximately 50 organizations and hundreds of citizens, 30 community service projects were completed. Thanks to our school administrators, community service has become an expected activity in our middle schools. And, once again, Los Gatos earned statewide recognition from the League of California Cities.

Four years ago, we said we wanted to enhance the appearance and character of the Town through the Residential and Commercial Design Guidelines and a North 40 Specific Plan. These types of projects require a great amount of time and thought, but we've accomplished the first two and are hard at work on the North 40 Specific Plan.

Four years ago, we said we wanted to be a responsive and cost effective government by enhancing our website, pursuing e-government opportunities, and seeking your feedback on Town services. Well, we achieved that goal and continue to improve upon it daily.

Where We Are Now

Now, I'd like to discuss the Town's fiscal situation in light of the economic challenges facing our nation. But first, I'd like to share a few words from Mr. Noyes, a former financial editor of The New York Times. He said, "We have come to a curious turn in the economic road. Things have happened during the last 12 months in our financial and economic history that we had taught ourselves to believe would never happen again."

How right he was and certainly an appropriate description of today's economy - the scary part is, he wrote that in 1930, which was 79 years ago! Our prudent planning, combined with our innovative revenue stabilization reserve has helped us weather difficult financial storms in the past. However, we are not immune from the financial events that are surrounding us and will need to be vigilant in taking steps to maintain

continued on page 2

Los Gatos' Fiscal Future

The global economic crisis is taking its toll on local households, businesses, and non-profit organizations. Los Gatos, like other communities, is not immune from these challenges. Shopping, traveling, real estate, and building activity have all decreased, lowering the amount of General Fund revenue the Town receives. The Town's General Fund is estimated to be about \$32 million in FY 2009/10.

The General Fund is supported by key economically-sensitive revenues like sales and property tax, hotel occupancy tax, business license tax, and fees/permits. These revenues pay for police, library, park and maintenance services among many others. While the Town's past prudent planning has positioned us well for times of fiscal hardship, it is not enough to weather the current economic storm.

The Town has prepared a 5-Year Forecast, which shows rising deficits each year, starting next fiscal year unless the Town takes corrective action. It is anticipated that over the next two years, the Town will face a \$2.5-3 million shortfall, which represents about 8% of the Town's General Fund. Budget adjustments will be necessary to correct this gap. The Town is developing a variety of short and long term budget strategies to address the anticipated shortfall. Some of these strategies include targeted hiring freezes and elimination of positions, service delivery reorganizations, and possible work furloughs. Fewer staff will mean that some service levels will be lower. Should the economic situation worsen over the next two years, the Town has the ability to use designated reserves to maintain basic core services.

The good news is that this current fiscal challenge is limited to revenues that support the General Fund. Funds that support redevelopment, parking, affordable housing, reserves and other special programs do not appear to be impacted by the current economic situation. This means that projects such as the Police Operations Building and the new Library facility are currently unaffected.

In summary, the Town has been affected by the economic crisis. However, because of Los Gatos' diligent attention to sound fiscal practices, the Town is relatively better positioned compared to other communities. During this challenging period, the Town Council will place a high priority on the Town's economic vitality and protection of vital revenues. Every effort will be made to continue to provide the best service possible with the limited funds available. The Council will consider the proposed operating budget on May 18, which will be available on the Town website at www.LosGatosCA.gov.

Inside

News Views.....	2
New Police Operations Building.....	2
A New Library for Los Gatos	3
"Once in a Generation" New Los Gatos Library Being Planned	3
Children's Programs at the Library.....	4
Los Gatos Library Unveils Green Section	4
Reviews At My Library	5
Get Your Textbooks Here!	5
Volunteer Opportunities.....	5

Hosting Youth Parties.....	6
The Parent Project	6
Senior Center News	6
General Plan and Housing Element Update	6
It Pays to Shop Los Gatos!.....	7
Los Gatos: Growing Greener Together ..	7
A Safe Garden.....	7
Keep Los Gatos Beautiful	7
Summer Fun	8



The *Town of Los Gatos Vista* is published by the Town of Los Gatos Community Services Department. Your comments are welcome.

Send your comments to:

Town of Los Gatos Vista
Attn: Community Services Director
208 E. Main St.
Los Gatos, CA 95030

(408) 354-6820
community@LosGatosCA.gov

News Views

Park Reservations Online

This January, the Town launched its new online park reservation program. This program allows residents to reserve picnic areas as well as other park facilities that require special permits. The new reservation system has many helpful features and will allow customers to:

- Schedule, reserve, and pay for facilities online
- Get real-time verification of facility space available
- Link to maps and detailed facility reservation requirements
- Make secure payment transactions using credit or debit cards

The Town is pleased to implement technological resources that enhance customer service and organizational productivity. To use the new park reservation service, go to: www.LosGatosCA.gov/parkreservations. If you have any questions, call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770.

State of the Town

Continued from page 1

a balanced budget.

The Town's General Fund, which pays for most of our services, receives revenue from a variety of sources, like property, hotel and sales taxes. These revenues can fluctuate dramatically with the economy. While property and hotel taxes appear to be holding steady, the continued loss of auto dealerships and the Town's reliance on one major sales tax generator are causes for concern. Complicating matters more, is the dire condition of the State of California and how the State's actions to balance its own budget could exacerbate local financial challenges.

We know that the outlook for the upcoming 2009/10 Fiscal Year will be challenging. Therefore, it is critical that we continue to carefully manage our expenditures to make sure we have a positive balance at the end of each fiscal year. To do this, we will be looking at a variety of cost cutting measures, including targeted hiring freezes and service reduction options. As we tighten our belts, we will take the time and care to make sure we balance the community's service needs and interests with available Town resources.

Where We Are Going

First, is the 2010 General Plan Update. The Update is well underway, will be completed on time, and will address youth, seniors and open space needs, as well as the importance of sustainability. Speaking of green, did you know there used to be 1,600 lights on the Town Holiday Tree, which cost over \$1,500 a year? Now there are 7,000 LED lights and it costs less than \$100 a year!

Next, is the opening of our new Police Operations Building. Because the bids for the building came in \$300,000 under budget, we can now build a shared Emergency Operations Center and community room.

Another project that has been a long time coming is the new Library. Our current library was built in 1964 when the population of the Town was about 9,000. By the mid 1980's, the library was already undersized for our community. With a population today of 30,000 generating nearly 210,000 library visits a year, the library is clearly under-serving Los Gatos. After numerous public meetings and significant community input, the Council hired architects to design the new library and authorized a budget of about \$18.4 million to build it — all without any increases in taxes to Los Gatos residents. The project is now in the environmental review and detailed design phase. The end result will be an environmentally exceptional LEED certified building. We hope to break ground early next year and have a new state-of-the-art library by fall 2011. The new library is a "Once in a Generation" project that this great community deserves.

And as further proof of how great this community is, a wonderful group called "The Friends of the Library" has committed to raise an additional \$2 million dollars to help decorate and provide fixtures for what will be a fantastic community facility!

Last June, after years of studies and reports, the Town of Los Gatos took action to make new outdoor sports

facilities a reality for our community. And this year, those long-awaited dreams are expected to come true. First, our newly renovated field at Oak Meadow Park will be used for youth soccer practice starting this spring. Second, we've set aside \$6 million for the improvement of existing fields and the acquisition of new ones. Starting this month, the Town will be negotiating with several property owners to bring new or improved fields and facilities online this year!

Directly related to this subject is the recently suggested idea of creating a *Friends of the Park* to help maintain our parks. If you use and value our parks, fields, trails and open spaces, I hope your business, school, church, club or your family will join this new effort and commit to help clean and maintain one of our many parks.

Finally, the last item, which may well prove to be the most important ever is the expansion of a successful program that is already in our schools that I think should be a 24-hour, 7-days a week town-wide effort. A program that helps our young people grow up to be healthy and happy adults. It's simple. It works and it's the right thing to do. It's all about our Town, working together for the benefit of our children.

I made reference to this idea when I was chosen to be your Mayor and I'm happy to say the idea is now ready to become a reality. I had quoted Franklin D. Roosevelt in November 2008 and I'll do it again now. He said: "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

The idea is to simply expand an existing and proven program that is already helping

develop healthy, caring and responsible children in our schools and make it a townwide effort and priority. The program is called *Project Cornerstone* and it was designed to increase the developmental assets of young people. Research has identified 41 developmental assets that young people can have and need and the more assets they have, the happier and more successful they will be. We all need to partner together to make this development occur everywhere — at school, at home, on the playing field, at places of worship, in stores, and in the neighborhoods. Working together is the key to this project being successful. In fact, two dozen groups including service clubs, faith organizations, sports leagues, and businesses have already agreed to partner together towards this common goal and meetings are now being scheduled.

In closing, I'd like to leave you with this fortune, compliments of Los Gatos' Yeung Shing Restaurant on Winchester behind Aldo's: "*You will pass a difficult test that will make you happier.*"

Sure times are tough right now and with sales tax revenue dropping and the State budget challenges, things are likely to get tougher. But it's been my experience that challenging times are fertile grounds for inspiration. We're in this together and there's strength in numbers. Los Gatos is our town and our responsibility. It's going to take teamwork to accomplish everything we need and want to do. But knowing the Council and Town staff, and most importantly the good people of this town, my hopes and expectations are high! Thank you for listening and being willing to help.

New Police Operations Building

Groundbreaking for the new Police Operations Building for the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department took place on January 20. The new facility, located on the 1.1-acre lot at 15900 Los Gatos Boulevard, just north of Blossom Hill Road, will house the Patrol and Detective Bureaus, as well as a new Emergency Operations Center and back-up Communications/Dispatch Center. Construction is scheduled to be completed in October 2009, with occupancy the following month.

The facility will incorporate the existing building at the site, which was purchased by the Town from Verizon in August 2007. This building, which is approximately 9,020 square feet in size, will be renovated, and an additional 3,240 square feet will be added. Renovation and construction plans incorporate a strict environmental and materials recycling policy, resulting in the re-use of over 50% of the material on the job site. It is the Town's intent to help protect the environment — much the same as the community does — by reusing and recycling as much material as possible.

The existing Communications/Dispatch Center and the Department headquarters will remain at the Civic

Center. The Civic Center site will include the Chief's office, the Support Services Division, and the Records Bureau. The new Police Operations Building will provide a centrally located base from which officers will respond to the public's needs quickly and efficiently. A variety of technology systems and operational processes will ensure that the Department will maintain seamless public service and organizational cohesion, despite the geographical separation.

This project will not only enhance the operational capabilities of our local Police Department, but it will also employ several local companies and help to stimulate the local economy. The general contractor, Santa Clara Valley Corporation, the architectural firm of Ross Drulis Cusenbery, and the construction managers, Harris & Associates, are extremely proud of this project and how it will positively affect our community. These three firms, along with staff from the Parks and Public Works, Community Development, and Police Departments, are working together to ensure the successful completion of this project. When completed, this will be a facility that the Town and all of its residents can be proud of.

A New Library for Los Gatos

*Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: How will the new library be funded?

A: There will be no tax increases to pay for the new \$18.4 million library. The library will be funded with existing Town reserves (\$4.4 million) and with Redevelopment Agency (RDA) funds (\$14 million) through a financing method known as Certificates of Participation (COPs). The COP notes are paid back from the revenue generated as the redevelopment area improves. In 2002, the Town Council issued \$10.6 million in COPs financing to pay for downtown improvements, including the renovation of Plaza Park; new sidewalks and streetscape features; parking lots; and reconstruction of N. Santa Cruz, Main St., downtown side streets and alleys.

Q: Shouldn't the Town be using Redevelopment funds to pay for other Town services since the Town faces budget challenges rather than building a library?

A: By State law, redevelopment funds cannot pay for any of the Town's ongoing services, such as park maintenance, street maintenance, public safety, or even library operations. Redevelopment funds can be used to improve public facilities, such as the improvements made previously in the downtown. Community facilities, such as police and fire stations and libraries, can be funded by redevelopment. In addition, the Town has a sizeable, separate redevelopment fund for affordable housing production. Redevelopment funds must be spent in the redevelopment project area (the downtown and Civic Center area in Los Gatos), with limited exceptions.

Q: Are there other eligible projects the Town could fund with redevelopment funds?

A: The 2002 COP funded many significant improvements in the redevelopment project area. While there are always other projects that could be done, the Council determined that the library project is a priority for the community based on substantial public input.

Q: Shouldn't the Town wait to build the library until the economy improves?

A: The Town has a deadline of December 10, 2011 to issue COPs for redevelopment funds, and to issue COPs, a project must be far enough along to demonstrate that the project is actually going to be built. If the Town does not issue COPs by this date, it will lose the opportunity to issue these notes for any project.

Q: How has the community participated in the library project?

A: The community began discussing the need for a new library as long ago as the 1980s. State funding for a new library was sought, but not granted, in 1988. In 2002, the Town began a master planning process for the facilities at the Civic Center in large part to identify the location for a library within the context of all the Civic Center facilities. In addition to the community participation during

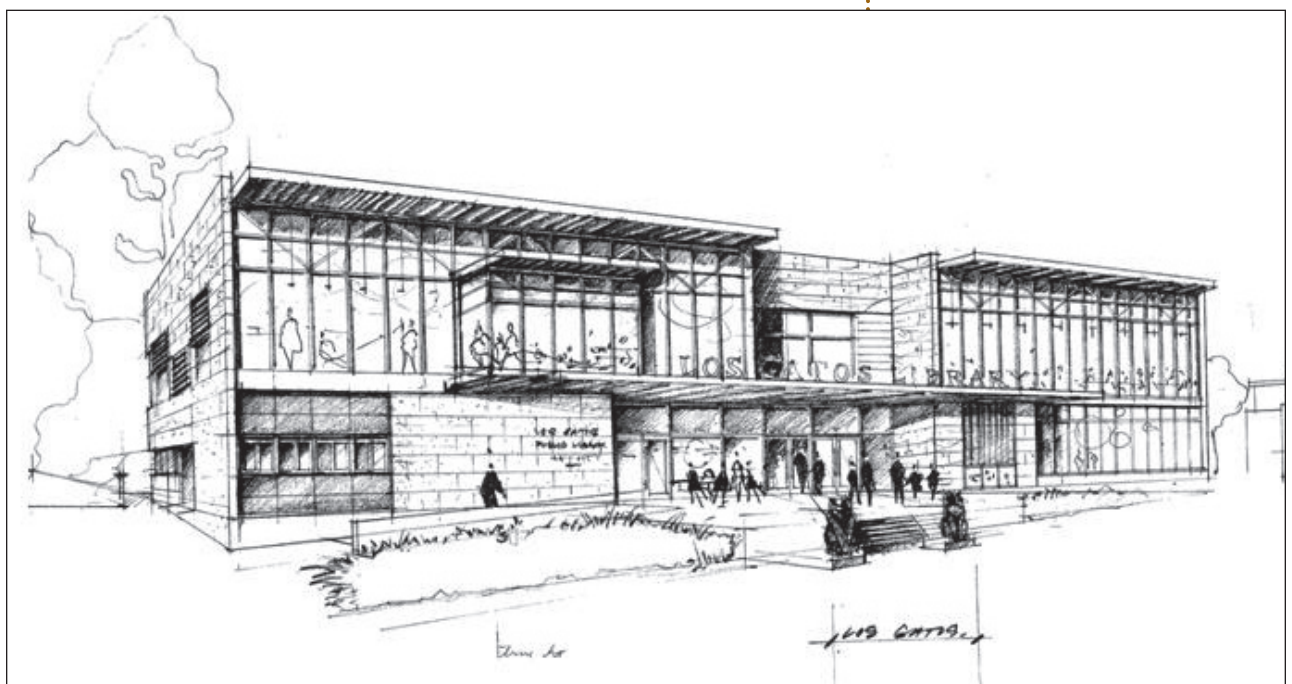
the earlier efforts, outreach for the master planning process included six focus groups, two community forums, a design charrette, on-line and counter questionnaires, and seven Council meetings. The library was a key focus of many of these efforts. For the library project itself, the Town Council has held five public meetings as well as three neighborhood meetings and a community forum.

Q: Have there been any surveys about the need for a new library?

A: Yes, in 2007, a preliminary survey to gauge voter interest in improvements to Civic Center facilities was conducted. The survey indicated that a majority of voters would support a bond measure to build a number of facilities, including a library and that a library was the top priority among potential uses of bond

money. The bond amounts noted in the survey were much higher than the cost of the library being planned, and the type of bonds noted would have required an increase in property taxes. The library being planned will not result in a tax increase for residents. In addition, the survey indicated that 70% of the respondents thought the library had a need for additional funding; 75% thought that expanding children's reading areas in the library was important; 69% thought that adding group study areas for students in the library was important; and 78% thought that expanding space for books was important.

** This is a partial list of FAQs about the new library. For more FAQs and to see the latest updates on the library project, go to the homepage story at www.LosGatosCA.gov.*



Conceptual Design for the New Library

“Once in a Generation” New Los Gatos Library Being Planned

It's been a long time coming! Our current library was built in 1964, when the population of the Town was about 9,000. By the mid 1980's, the library was already undersized for the community and plans for a new library were being discussed. With a population today of 30,000 generating about 210,000 library visits a year, the library is significantly under-serving Los Gatos.

After numerous public meetings and much community input on the library project over the last five years, the Town has launched the environmental review and detailed design process for a new 31,000 sq. ft. library — without any increases in taxes to Los Gatos residents. The new library will provide more space for books and electronic media, children's programs, teen services, group study, reading, and public computers. And, the new library will be “green” — achieving LEED Silver certification through the choice of building materials, energy efficient systems, and educational elements.

We hope to break ground early next year and have a new state-of-the-art library by the end of 2011. The new library is a “Once in a Generation” project that will meet Los Gatos' youth and adult learning needs into the future.

**Subscribe to the
What's New! Email Delivery Service:
www.LosGatosCA.gov/new**

Children’s Programs at the Library

With generous support from the Friends of the Los Gatos Library, an excellent group of volunteers, and community partnerships, the Los Gatos Library continues to offer many youth-centered programs. This January, the Library partnered with Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation to host a series of collaborative programs, including Music Together, a pony presentation, Parent and Me Kidz Yoga, and more. Together, we were able to bring a greater variety of programming and a wider range of educational content to the community. Based upon positive feedback from our attendees, we look forward to continued programming and collaboration efforts with the Recreation Department.



The children’s room is a community hub with something for everyone. In 2008 we were fortunate to launch two new volunteer-led programs. Homework Together is a drop-in homework help program for children of all ages. Offered on Mondays and Wednesdays, this program is organized and run by a group of fantastic teenagers. Our new bilingual (Spanish/English) storytime is led by Karen McVay, a wonderful volunteer and teacher for Spanish for Little Hands. Karen offers this program the first Thursday of each month. With the continued support of our talented volunteers, both the Children’s Knitting Group and Books

Together had another successful year. It is the dynamic combination of staff expertise and volunteer dedication that make Los Gatos Library great.

If you have not come by the Library recently, stop by and check out some of our upcoming programs:

Keep Los Gatos Beautiful Family Concert and Picnic

Thursday, April 30, 2009
6:00 pm

Families are invited to join us in celebrating Keep Los Gatos Beautiful month. Bring a picnic dinner in re-useable containers and a picnic blanket and enjoy the fun, unstoppable, eco-friendly music of Lori and RJ (aka Cotton Candy Express) on the Civic Center lawn. This event is free and open to all ages.



Summer Reading Kick Off – Get Creative @ Your Library

Thursday, June 4, 2009
4:00 pm

Come to the Library and sign up for a summer of reading fun. Summer reading is open to everyone, from babies to adults. This event is free and open to all ages.

Sing Along with Andy Z

Friday, June 12, 2009
10:30 am

Andy Z is a children’s performer, singer/songwriter and educator from the San Francisco Bay Area whose music touches the hearts of all ages. Andy will have your children smiling, singing and dancing. This event is free and open to preschool-aged children (ages 5 and under) and their parents/guardians.



Drummm

Thursday, June 18, 2009
4:00 pm

Drummm provides a hands-on, interactive, group music-making experience in a fun, playful environment. This event is free and open to all ages.



Save the date for some Middle School FUN at the Library.

Thursday, June 25, 2009
4:00 pm

This event is free and open to students in grades 6–8.

Charles the Clown

Thursday, July 9, 2009
6:30 pm

Charles begins the program as an ordinary, everyday man (except for the red pants and colorful shirt). After discussing costumes with the children, he starts to become a clown. Everything goes wrong! This event is free and open to all ages.

Ventriloquist Steve Chaney & Corny Crow

Thursday, July 16, 2009
6:30 pm

Be prepared to laugh as Steve Chaney and his partner Corny Crow juggle, perform magic, and act silly. This event is free and open to all ages.

Save the date for some Middle School FUN at the Library.

Thursday, July 23, 2009
4:00 pm

This event is free and open to students in grades 6–8.

Big Truck Day

Saturday, August 1, 2009
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Come and see some of our big trucks in the Library parking lot — fire trucks, police cars, and more! This event is free and open to all ages.

P&T Puppets present

“Pirates! The Pie Rats of Penn’s Aunt”
Thursday, August 6, 2009
6:30 pm

P&T Puppet Theater offers a wonderful assortment of puppets and a brilliant script. Be prepared to get involved! This event is free and open to all ages.

Summer Reading Finale & Carnival

Thursday, August 13, 2009
4:00 pm

Come collect your summer reading prize and join in the carnival fun. This event is free and open to all ages.

Weekly Storytimes

In addition to our special programs, there are several ongoing programs that liven up the Children’s Room each week, including weekly storytimes. Storytimes are a balance of participatory and listening activities for children and their parents/guardians. These activities include story-reading, story-telling, music, fingerplays, and movement arranged by the Children’s Librarian for each age group.



Toddler Storytime

Mondays, 10:30 am
Ages 24–36 months

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays, 10:30 am
Ages 3–5 years

Wonderful Ones

Fridays, 10:30 am
Ages 12–24 months

Bouncing Babies

Fridays, 11:30 am
Ages 0–12 months

continued on page 5

Los Gatos Library Unveils Green Section

Now you can get all your “green” information in one convenient area at the Los Gatos Library. Located upstairs near the circulation desk, the Green Section showcases books about solar power, composting, green living, and much, much more. There is even a section of green fiction featuring such green classics as *Ecotopia* by Ernst Callenbach, and *All Over Creation* by Ruth Ozeki. In addition, prominently displayed is a demonstration of Kill-A-Watt® meters. The display shows how compact fluorescent bulbs use less than half as much energy as traditional incandescent bulbs. A limited number of these Kill-A-Watt® meters are available for checkout at the circulation desk. Also featured are tips for green living and samples of reusable shopping bags from West Valley Green Leaf Committee and the Town .



Reviews At My Library

The Library’s online catalog has a new feature, called “Reviews At My Library.” Now, you can add your own review to any item in the online catalog, and read the reviews of other users. Similar to the user reviews on online sales sites, these reviews let you find out what people just like you had to say about books you may be thinking about reading. They are posted by local Los Gatos Library patrons and staff, library patrons and staff from other libraries, and from LibraryThing.com, a website for book lovers. And it’s not just limited to books! This new feature allows you to add a review to any item in the library — be the first to tell others about a great audiobook, movie, or music CD.

To get started, visit the Library website, **www.LosGatosCA.gov/library**, and click on “Library Catalog.” Search for the item you are interested in by title, author, keyword, or ISBN. Once you are on that item’s page, you will see a section labeled

“Reviews,” where you can view reviews or add a review of your own. You’ll also see a tally of how many reviews of that item have already been made, and the average rating given the item, from one to five stars.

The “Reviews At My Library” feature gives all patrons a chance to contribute to and own the Library catalog. Users can see all their own reviews any time they log in. And, anyone can put their own reviews on their Facebook page or their blog using the blog widget available when they log into their account. You can let your friends know what you are reading and what you think of it! LibraryThing.com guarantees that reviews will never appear on a site that sells books. All reviews are moderated by a librarian at the Library or by the staff at **LibraryThing.com**.

Get Your Textbooks Here!

The new Los Gatos High School textbook collection is a huge success! Based on similar collections housed at other public libraries nationwide, and thanks to the efforts of Library and LGHS staff, the Library is pleased to make available to LGHS students a non-circulating reference collection of textbooks for grades 9 to 12.

Many students have textbooks that they keep at home and classroom textbooks that stay at school. In the past, if they wanted to study at the Library after school, they had to bring all of these heavy books and lug them around all day. Not any more! Now, they can come to the Library and use the textbooks in our collection, located behind the adult reference desk. These books are available only for use within the Library, and cannot be checked out. We have all of the titles that the high school could spare, and are working to make our collection complete. For some of the most popular titles, we have two copies. If the textbook you need is not available, let a reference librarian know and we will try and obtain a copy. For a complete list of the titles currently available, go to the Library website, **www.LosGatosCA.gov/library**, click on “Library Catalog,” and make a search by title using “Los Gatos High School textbooks.”

We expect this to continue to be a popular resource for the LGHS students. For more information about other Library services for teens, visit the Library website and click on “Teen Zone.”

Children’s Programs at the Library

Continued from page 4



School-Age Programs

Bilingual Storytime (English/Spanish)
**First Thursday of each month,
4:00 pm**
All ages

Each storytime is followed by a half hour playtime in order to provide parents and children with a time to socialize and interact.

Children’s Knitting Group
Tuesdays, 4:00 – 5:00 pm
Children ages 9 and up, come and knit with your friends! New projects begin each month.

Children’s Book Club
**Last Thursday of each month,
4:00 pm**
Children in grades 3–6, join us for a great new book, a lively discussion, snacks, and activities each month.

Books Together
**Mondays and Wednesdays,
3:00 – 4:30 pm**
Children of all ages, drop by and listen to a story read by one of our wonderful volunteers.

Homework Together
**Mondays and Wednesdays,
4:00 – 5:00 pm**
Children of all ages, drop by and let one of our excellent teen volunteers help you with your homework. (This program runs only during the school year, August through June.)

Some Other Library Offerings

Reader’s Advisory
If you need help finding a book that is just right for you, stop by the Children’s

Reference Desk and ask! Come prepared to tell us about a few books you have liked and a few you have not liked and why. You can also send us this information via email to **childrenslibrarian@LosGatosCA.gov**.

Reference Assistance
If you need help finding information for a report, tracking down a book, working with databases, or more, stop by the Children’s Reference Desk. We are always happy to help!

For more information on children’s

services and programs, visit **www.LosGatosCA.gov/library-kidspage**, or call (408) 354-6893.

For information on Teen programs and happenings, visit **www.LosGatosCA.gov/library-teenzone**.

For more information on The Friends of the Los Gatos Library, visit **www.LosGatosCA.gov/library-friends**, or call (408) 399-5700.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Town uses volunteers in a variety of ways, and our volunteers bring a broad spectrum of experiences and additional skills to the organization. Our Volunteer Services Program works to ensure a continued partnership between the Town and the volunteer community to provide enhanced programs and services, and to promote civic and community pride. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Town Boards and Commissions
- Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department
- Leadership Los Gatos
- Community Unity

Town Boards and Commissions

The Town has a number of all-volunteer boards, commissions, and committees who act in an advisory capacity to the Town Council. If you would like to get more directly involved in your community, this is your opportunity! For more information about each of the boards, commissions, and committees, and for a list of current vacancies, visit the Town’s website, **www.LosGatosCA.gov/commissions**.

Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department

The Police Department offers volunteer

opportunities through a number of programs, including Volunteers in Policing (VIP), the Police Reserves, the Disaster Aid Response Team (DART), the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Pipes and Drums, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and the Police Explorer Program. For more information on all of these programs, visit **www.LosGatosCA.gov/police**, and click on “Volunteer Opportunities.”

Leadership Los Gatos

Leadership Los Gatos is a joint program of the Town and the Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce. Its mission is to engage, educate and develop Los Gatos citizens for leadership roles in community and neighborhood organizations, schools, churches, and Town government. For more information, visit **www.LosGatosCA.gov/volunteers** and click on Leadership Los Gatos.

Community Unity

Community Unity matches local organizations that have planned community projects with available volunteers. It is a grassroots effort to bring together Los Gatans focused on maintaining and improving community, building community partnerships, and fostering civic pride. The Community Unity website has more information: **www.LosGatosCA.gov/cu**.

Talk Back...

We'd like to hear from you. Please send us your comments, ideas, thoughts, or concerns. E-mail us at manager@LosGatosCA.gov.

Hosting Youth Parties

The Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department urges parents of teenage children to exercise responsibility when hosting or condoning teen parties at their home. The Police Department is taking an active enforcement stance against those who create an environment where teens are provided, or allowed to bring and consume alcohol in a party setting.

While the greatest percentage of youth in Los Gatos do not drink excessively, a large enough percentage have self-reported binge drinking or drinking within the past 30 days of being surveyed to cause concern. The Police Department has partnered with the SHIFT Coalition, a community effort to change community attitudes regarding alcohol use, particularly among young people. According to the SHIFT Coalition/California Healthy Kids survey administered to Los Gatos youth in October 2007, 38% of teens had consumed alcohol within 30 days of conducting the survey. The full survey results, and links to additional information about

underage drinking, are available on the SHIFT Coalition website at www.shiftcoalition.org. Underage drinking is especially dangerous because young people who drink at an early age are more likely to have problems with alcohol as adults, according to a 2007 report by the Office of the Surgeon General, available at www.surgeongeneral.gov/topics/underagedrinking/FamilyGuide.pdf.

The incidence of teen drinking and youth access to alcohol continues to be a problem in Los Gatos. Teens get alcohol from a variety of sources, but primarily from their own home or the home of a friend. Other sources include older siblings who are legally allowed to purchase alcohol, "shoulder tapping" an adult in front of a store, and, increasingly, stealing alcohol from retail stores.

Parents are encouraged to let the Police Department know when they are going to host a party that will include the presence of teenagers. The department can help them to protect against unwanted visitors should the party get

out of hand. However, parents must also uphold their responsibility through direct supervision and not allowing teen alcohol consumption. Most problems have been a result of parents who were not present at their teen's party, or who may not have been paying close attention to teen activities at an event.

If you are a parent, review the resources available on the Police Department's website. Start at www.LosGatosCA.gov/police, click on "Services and Outreach," then "Tips for Parents" and "Youth and Teen Resources." There you will find information such as:

- "Youth Party Guidelines"
- "How to Have a No Bust Party"
- "Tips for Parents: Underage Drinking in California – What Can You Do?"

Youth and teens are integral parts of our community. The Police Department, and the Town as a whole, supports working together to provide them with appropriate services and resources.

The Parent Project

Are your adolescent children "out of control"? Do you feel frustrated or overwhelmed with trying to communicate or get through to them? Are your children abusing drugs or alcohol as a way of rebelling? Do you feel like you have lost the battle and are on the verge of just giving up? If your answer to any of these questions is "yes" then you may want to consider enrolling in The Parent Project, a 12-week class being presented by the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department.

The Parent Project is designed to help parents learn to work with their out-of-control or strong willed adolescent children. Parents will learn that it takes more than just good communication with children in order to motivate and influence positive changes in their lives. Parents will learn training tools and receive support they need to successfully intervene in their child's life.

The Parent Project is a regional program presented by police departments throughout the county. The 36 hour course is spread across 12 three-hour meetings. The first session is being held this March through May in the large gym at Calvary Church on Los Gatos Boulevard. The instructors are Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Officers Michelle Gonzalez and Sam Wonnell, along with Family and Marriage Therapist Intern LaDonna Silva. Both Officer Gonzalez and Officer Wonnell have several years of experience with youth in the Los Gatos community through their assignments as School Resource Officers.

For more information about this program, visit www.parentproject.com or contact Officer Wonnell via telephone at (408) 399-5719 or via email at parentproject@LosGatosCA.gov. Registration will be available through Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation on their website at www.lgsrecreation.org.

Senior Center News

Did you know that the Los Gatos Senior Center publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, filled with information of special interest to local seniors? Subscriptions are free – just call the Senior Center at (408) 354-1514 to sign up your favorite senior. The most recent newsletter included information such as the following:

The Women Artist Connection

The 55+ Program is sponsoring the Women Artist Connection as a means of bringing together local women artists to inspire and enrich the creative process involved in making art. Meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the Neighborhood Center; light refreshments are served. For more information, call the 55+ Program at (408) 354-2360.

PG&E Assistance Program

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) sponsors several programs that may help you to manage your energy bill.

- The Balanced Payment Plan helps even out your monthly bills by averaging your energy costs over the year.
- The C.A.R.E. Plan provides a 15% discount on utility bills for income-eligible households.
- The Reach Program is especially designed to help the elderly, disabled, sick, income-eligible, and unemployed.
- H.E.A.P. is a federal program that is also available for income-eligible households.

For more information on any PG&E Program, call PG&E Customer Service at (800) 743-5000, or visit www.pge.com.

Wednesday Afternoon Movies

On the fourth Wednesday of each month, a top-rated movie is shown in the Neighborhood Center Lounge at 1:00 pm. Admission and snacks are free! You can come for the Live Oak Nutrition lunch and stay for the movie – but be sure to call Live Oak for a lunch reservation two days in advance, at (408) 354-0707.

For more information on any Senior Center activity or service, call the Senior Center at (408) 354-1514. Or, visit the Town's website, www.LosGatosCA.gov/seniors.

General Plan and Housing Element Update

The Town is currently updating its General Plan, last adopted nine years ago. The General Plan is the principal policy and planning document guiding the development and conservation of all California municipalities, and is required by State law. It is a collection of goals and policies related to all aspects of community life and growth. A General Plan is often referred to as the legal "constitution" of local development. The General Plan's foundation for all land use decisions and Town Council policy direction.

The General Plan update is a multi-year process that includes a comprehensive update of the General Plan, and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which will investigate any possible impacts of the General Plan update policy changes on the surrounding physical environment. As part of this update process, a General Plan Update Background Report was prepared. The Report provides an overview of Los Gatos' physical, environmental, economic, demographic and political setting as of mid-2008. It is intended to serve as a comprehensive reference for community members, policymakers, staff, and the consultant team, *Design, Community & Environment*, throughout the General Plan update process.

As part of the General Plan Update process, the Housing Element is also being updated. The Housing Element is an important section of the General Plan that assesses the housing needs of all income groups and lays out a program to meet those housing needs. Unlike other State-mandated General Plan elements, the Housing Element is subject

continued on page 7

It Pays to Shop Los Gatos!

Did you know that every time you shop at stores or dine out in Los Gatos, the Town receives 1 cent of the 8.25 cents of sales tax per dollar that is collected? Sales Tax and Use Tax revenues account for approximately 28% of the revenue received by the Town's General Fund.



The General Fund supports the majority of the basic services and programs local residents and businesses rely on, including police, parks, streets, and the library. Every time you shop locally or dine out in town, you help support and maintain the quality of Town services that residents have come to expect and that

make Los Gatos such a desirable place to live.

It Saves to Shop Los Gatos!

The Town prides itself on its efforts to lessen the impacts its operations may have on the environment. You too can make a difference and help to save the environment! By shopping locally you choose to help reduce carbon impacts created by traveling to other communities. Local stores help to sustain vibrant, compact, and walkable town centers which in turn are essential to reducing sprawl, automobile use, and air pollution.

It Nourishes to Shop Los Gatos!

Support local prosperity by choosing to shop in town. Not only will that choice support local businesses that call Los Gatos their home, but it celebrates the small-town character that has made our community a desirable place to live, work, and play. Help keep Los Gatos' small town character with a big town heart!

Los Gatos: Growing Greener Together

The Los Gatos: Growing Greener Together program provides education, tips, and green practices that can be used at home, at work, and at play. Each month, the Growing Greener website, www.LosGatosCA.gov/growinggreener, spotlights a different green theme and provides information, links, and green practices that relate to the theme. The April theme for Los Gatos: Growing Greener Together is Keep Los Gatos Beautiful; Keeping Our Community Clean, Green, and Beautiful. Consider implementing these green practices at your home or office:

- Add a plant to your office or work space. Live plants not only brighten a room and improve air quality, they have also been linked with stress reduction in the work place.
- Just say "No" to junk mail! Remove your name from those pesky mailing lists. You know...the ones that send you magazines and envelopes full of unwanted paper that immediately go from your mail box to the recycle bin? Contact the source and ask to be put on an email-only mailing list or to be removed from their list altogether.
- Challenge yourself to do a little extra this month. Maybe that means arranging a new carpool for work or walking to a local eatery for lunch instead of driving.
- Visit the Farmers Market! Every Sunday, the Farmers Market is held on Montebello Way near Town Plaza Park. Here you can enjoy live entertainment and purchase many local products including fresh produce, organic options, tasty treats, and more. By buying local, we can decrease our environmental impact and support local farmers and businesses.

This April is also the first anniversary of Los Gatos: Growing Greener Together, and to celebrate we have introduced a "Notify Me" feature to the program. To receive the monthly Growing Greener information via email, visit www.LosGatosCA.gov/notifyme, and subscribe to the Los Gatos: Growing Greener Together email list.

A Safe Garden

If you use pesticides in your yard, it may not be the healthy green oasis that you have in mind. Children and pets can absorb pesticide residues while playing in the grass and landscaping. Pesticides may also get tracked inside onto the carpet, where children and pets play. Pesticide residue can even end up on children's toys. In addition, pesticides are carried by water runoff into our creeks, where they can affect local wildlife and enter our water supply.

Who are these bugs?

One point to keep in mind is that you may not need to be spraying for pests. Many of the bugs you see in your garden are harmless, or even beneficial and can help you to control the harmful bugs. These helpful bugs are often killed when gardeners mistake them for pests. For example, this Ladybug larva (shown below) will eat aphids, but might not be recognized as a ladybug. If you saw this Lacewing (shown at right) in your garden, would you know it was eating aphids and mealybugs? To see more photos of

beneficial insects, visit the UC Davis IPM website, <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu>.

Attracting "Good Bugs"

One alternative to pesticides is to utilize beneficial insects to kill your garden pests. Beneficial insects can be attracted to your garden by planting foliage that they like. The West Valley Clean Water Program has free seed packets available, which come with a full-color brochure showing photos of the "good bugs." To request a seed packet, call the West Valley Clean Water Program at (408) 354-4734, or send an email to: info.westvalley@comcast.net.

Dispose of Banned Pesticides

Some pesticides have been taken off the market as unsafe and should be disposed of. All pesticides containing DIAZINON or CHLORPYRIFOS have been banned from residential use. Check your storage shelves for products with these chemicals, and take them to a free Household Hazardous Waste drop-off site; visit www.hhw.org for details.



Keep Los Gatos Beautiful

April is Keep Los Gatos Beautiful Month. Every year during April, the Town supports events dedicated to the beautification of Los Gatos and to our commitment to living and growing greener as a community. This year's events promise to provide a variety of educational and entertaining celebrations for all ages. From booths at the Farmers Market to the Town's Arbor Day event, there is something for everyone. This year's events will include:

Plant Swap

The 55+ Program will be hosting a plant swap for adults age 55 and over on Wednesday, April 22 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm at the Los Gatos Neighborhood Center, 208 East Main Street. You are invited to share or swap plant starts, seeds, and bulbs with other gardening enthusiasts. For more information, call the 55+ Program at (408) 354-2360.

Farmers Market Exhibits

On April 5, 19, and 26, special exhibits will be held at the Los Gatos Farmers Market, including information on the local Master Gardener Program and the Santa Clara County Composting Education Program. The Farmers Market is held each Sunday from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm on Montebello Way at the corner of Main Street and South Santa Cruz Avenue.

Arbor Day Celebration

The Town has been named a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 29th year in a row! Join us as we celebrate Arbor Day and this special recognition with a tree planting ceremony at La Rinconada Park on Friday, April 24 at 10:00 am.

Our annual Keep Los Gatos Beautiful newsletter, which includes detailed information about these and other planned events, is available at www.LosGatosCA.gov/keeplosgatosbeautiful.

General Plan and Housing Element Update

Continued from page 6

to detailed statutory requirements regarding its content and is subject to mandatory review by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. One of the first parts of updating the Housing Element will be to update its Technical Appendix, which will include such information as:

- Needs Assessment
- Projected Housing Needs
- Constraints to Housing Development

Comprehensive information about the General Plan update process is available on the Town's General Plan Update website, www.lggeneralplanupdate.org. There, you can view the General Plan

Update Background Report and Housing Element Technical Appendix, read the agendas and minutes of the General Plan Update Committee, and keep up to date with all process and milestone announcements. You can also sign up to receive email updates about the process; just visit www.LosGatosCA.gov/notifyme.

Summer Fun

Music in the Park

Sundays, June 21 – August 30

5 to 7 pm

Civic Center Lawn, 110 East Main Street

Los Gatos in the know, know that the

best entertainment deal in Town is the

annual Music in the Park free concert

series. Bring your children, your friends,

and a picnic dinner, and spend a warm

summer evening outside enjoying great

music. This year's series will run from

June 21 to August 30 with concerts each

Sunday evening from 5 to 7 pm. For an

updated listing of concert bands, visit

the Town website at www.LosGatosCA.gov/mip.

by the Los Gatos Arts Commission and

is funded by local business and citizen

contributions.

Los Gatos Celebrates the

4th of July

Saturday, July 4

Los Gatos High School Lawn,

235 East Main Street

Come celebrate Independence Day with

us at the annual Los Gatos Celebrates

the 4th of July Event. This all day event

focuses on fun for the whole family

beginning at 11:00 am with games and a

barbeque on the Civic Center lawn. At

1:30 pm a concert will be held on the Los

Gatos High School lawn, featuring the

San Jose Wind Symphony's presentation

of patriotic selections, including many

"pops" concert favorites. After the

concert, return to the Civic Center for

a snack and an old fashioned sing-a-

long followed by bingo and lemonade in

the shade. You won't want to miss this

down-home, community celebration!

More information will be available on the

Town's website in June.

Los Gatos Shakespeare

Festival

Weekends, July – August

8:00 pm

Oak Meadow Park, 233 Blossom Hill Road

Enjoy outdoor theatrical presentations

by the Festival Theatre Ensemble, held

under the stars at Oak Meadow Park. The

2009 festival schedule will be: *The Merry*

Wives of Windsor and *A Midsummer*

Night's Dream by William Shakespeare,

and *The Jungle Book* adapted by Will

Huddleston. For information about

performance dates and ticket prices call

(408) 996-0635, or visit its website at

www.festivaltheatreensemble.org.

Screen on the Green

Friday, September 25

7:30 pm

Oak Meadow Park, 233 Blossom Hill Road

Screen on the Green is a free, outdoor

showing of a family movie at Oak

Meadow Park on a Friday evening.

For more information as it becomes

available, visit the Town website

www.LosGatosCA.gov.



TOWN OF LOS GATOS



OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Town of Los Gatos
PO Box 949
Los Gatos, CA 95031

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Los Gatos, CA 95030
Permit #57

POSTAL CUSTOMER